

Application No.: 10/695,499

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Docket No.: 223002099101

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a protein comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 2, comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

Claims 4-7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule for detection of *N. meningitidis* or expression of an immunogenic polypeptide, having 50% or greater sequence identity to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 2.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule for detection of *N. meningitidis* or expression of an immunogenic polypeptide, comprising a fragment of 25 or more nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence fully complementary to a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 8.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule for detection of *N. meningitidis* or expression of an immunogenic polypeptide, comprising a nucleotide sequence having 50% or greater sequence identity to a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

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Claim 13 (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule for detection of *N. meningitidis* or expression of an immunogenic polypeptide, which can hybridise to a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 8 under high stringency conditions comprising a wash in 0.1xSSC, 0.5% SDS solution at 65°C

Claims 14-17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule for detection of *N. meningitidis* or expression of an immunogenic polypeptide that encodes a protein comprising an immunogenic fragment of at least 10 consecutive amino acids of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule for detection of *N. meningitidis* or expression of an immunogenic polypeptide, having wherein said nucleic acid molecule has 80% or greater sequence identity to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 2.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule for detection of *N. meningitidis* or expression of an immunogenic polypeptide, having wherein said nucleic acid molecule has 90% or greater sequence identity to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 2.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule for detection of *N. meningitidis* or expression of an immunogenic polypeptide, having wherein said nucleic acid molecule has 95% or greater sequence identity to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 2.